Ujana Salama: A cash plus model for safe transitions to a healthy and productive adulthood: Findings on transactional sex

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Photo credit: Rikke Le Kirkegaard
Background

Pilot intervention and study to understand how to leverage social protection to improve adolescent well-being

- Previous study found that Tanzania’s Productive Safety Net (PSSN) had positive impacts on school attendance, decision-making and some other limited areas of adolescent well-being

- But, half of adolescents 14-17 years had already dropped out of school prior to program.

- Evidence that adolescents needed additional, complementary programming to safely transition to adulthood.

The programme analysed is targeted at the most vulnerable youth & implemented within a national government cash transfer programme. This is the first evaluation of this kind.
Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN)

• Reaches 1 million households nationally
• Targets poorest 10% of population (extremely food insecure)
• Comprises
  – Unconditional + conditional cash transfer (maximum TZS 38,000 bi-monthly transfer; 17 USD)
  – Public works (cash for work) 2300 TZS/day in lean season
  – Livelihoods Enhancement (savings promotion, basic training, productive grant)
The Cash Plus Intervention

**Cash Plus**: A multi-sectoral project targeting adolescents 14-19 years from poor households benefiting from Tanzania Social Action Fund’s (TASAF) Productive Social Safety Nets programme (PSSN). Technical assistance from UNICEF and Tanzanian Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS)

**The Cash**: cash transfer to the household (PSSN)

**The Plus:**

- 12 weeks of **training on livelihoods and life skills** (including HIV/SRH & gender equity) \(\rightarrow\) **midline data collected 6 months after start of intervention**
- **Mentoring** (including referrals) & **productive grant**
- Linkages to **adolescent-friendly services** (e.g. sexual and reproductive health; violence response) in government primary health care facilities
Study Design: Cluster Randomized Control Trial

**Design**

130 villages (clusters) in four districts in Tanzania randomized into:

- **Treatment**: Cash+ adolescent-focused training and services layered onto PSSN
- **Control**: Cash (PSSN) only

**Study sample** 2,191 youth (14-19 years old at baseline) from 1,717 households

Transactional sex sample for analysis: Unmarried youth who had sexually debuted (n=639)

**Data collection**

- Baseline: pre-intervention/pre-randomization survey (2017)
- Wave 2: 12-month follow-up survey (2018)
- Wave 3: 24-month follow-up (2019)
- Mobile surveys: on-going (2020)
- Wave 4: 32-month follow-up expected 2021
Study areas, Iringa & Mbeya
Definition of transactional sex used

• Used definition, items, and additive scale recommended in Wamoyi et al. (2019)

• Analyzed among the sub-set on unmarried individuals

• Excluded married youth because we did not capture information on marital and extra-marital relationships
Some caveats for interpreting findings

1. PSSN payment delays after March 2019

1. Wide net of outcomes; significant programme impacts on all outcomes not expected

1. Timing of Wave 3 interviews
   – 17 months after the start of face-to-face training
   – 12 months after supply-side strengthening & start of mentoring
   – 2-4 months after delivery of the final component (productive grant)
   – Immediately after PSSN payment delay (last payment was March 2019)
Findings
No Impacts on transactional sex indicators (ANCOVA), unmarried adolescents who have sexually debuted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ITT Impact</th>
<th>ATT Impact</th>
<th>Baseline Mean</th>
<th>Round 3 Cash Only</th>
<th>Round 3 Cash Plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provided money, favours, or gifts for sex last 12 months, males only</td>
<td>0.040</td>
<td>0.138</td>
<td>0.032</td>
<td>0.157</td>
<td>0.197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.04)</td>
<td>(0.15)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index (additive; range 0-3), females only</td>
<td>0.185</td>
<td>0.350</td>
<td>0.414</td>
<td>1.111</td>
<td>1.296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.09)</td>
<td>(0.18)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Linear models were estimated on the panel of youth interviewed both at baseline and Round 3. Regressions control for age and outcome value at baseline, district x size fixed effects. Standard errors adjusted for clustering at the community level are reported in parentheses. *p<0.05, **p<0.01. Missing values at baseline were replaced with zero.
I was only 15 years old. Because of hardships, I left here [Mufindi] to go to Dar es Salaam to work. Someone took me there, and it is there that I met one young man. This young man is the one who deceived me, seeing that I had left the village to go to the city; he promised me he would get me out of hardships.

F, 18 years, completed Standard 7, Mufindi
He promised that he will marry me and there I will do business, I knew I would be at a better place rather than just sitting idle... I said okay, that will be better. But it’s just like that, my dream wasn’t realized, he conned me. Female, 17 years, completed Standard 7, Rungwe (Treatment)
Findings: impacts on pathways between poverty & transactional sex

**Increased**
- business start-ups
- livestock keeping
- self-esteem (females)

**Decreased**
- depressive symptoms

**No overall impacts**
- Primary or secondary school attendance or attainment
- drop-out from secondary increased among sub-sample of older females (n=28 T v. 17 C)
Findings: impacts on related outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increased</th>
<th>Decreased</th>
<th>No impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• gender equitable attitudes (males)</td>
<td>• sexual violence experiences (females)</td>
<td>• Marriage/cohabitation, or having boyfriend/girlfriend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• HIV prevention knowledge &amp; testing</td>
<td>• perpetration of physical violence (males)</td>
<td>• pregnancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• contraceptive knowledge</td>
<td>• Delayed sexual debut by four months (females)</td>
<td>• age disparate relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• use of contraception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• experiences of emotional/physical violence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Violence-related help-seeking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Original article

Impacts of a Cash Plus Intervention on Gender Attitudes Among Tanzanian Adolescents

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Conclusion & Discussion

• First evaluation of a cash plus pilot for adolescents within a large-scale government, social protection programme
• No impacts on transactional sex
• Some protective impacts on pathways & related outcomes
• High potential for scalability
  • Programme targets poorest, is combined with health service strengthening, & is implemented within government structures.

for every child, answers
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Ahsentani!

More info on the study: https://transfer.cpc.unc.edu/tools/reports/tanzania-reports-2/

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